

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preventing myocardial infarction in a patient following surgery, said method comprising the step of: administering to said patient a therapeutic amount of a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent after surgery, wherein said patient did not receive the pharmacologic cardiovascular agent prior to surgery for treatment of a preexisting cardiovascular condition, thereby preventing myocardial infarction in the patient.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is administered after surgery until hospital discharge.
3. The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for at least three days.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for up to seven days.
5. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a β_1 -adrenergic selective blocking agent.
- 20 6. The method of Claim 5 in which the agent is atenolol.
7. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is an $\alpha-2$ agonist.
- 25 8. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a nitrate.
9. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a calcium channel blocker.
- 30 10. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is an ACE inhibitor.

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11. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a platelet inhibitor.

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12. The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a thrombosis inhibitor.

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13. The method of Claim 1 in which the surgery is cardiac-related surgery.

14. The method of Claim 1 in which the surgery is non-cardiac-related surgery.

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15. The method of Claim 1 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.

16. The method of Claim 1 in which the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.

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17. A method for preventing congestive heart failure in a patient following surgery, said method comprising the step of: administering to said patient a therapeutic amount of a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent after surgery, wherein said patient did not receive the pharmacologic cardiovascular

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agent prior to surgery for treatment of a preexisting cardiovascular condition; thereby preventing congestive heart failure in the patient

18. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is administered after surgery until hospital discharge.

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19. The method of Claim 18 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for at least three days.

20. The method of Claim 18 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for up to seven days.

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21. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is a β_1 -adrenergic selective blocking agent.

22. The method of Claim 21 in which the agent is atenolol.

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23. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is an $\alpha-2$ agonist.

24. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is a nitrate.

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25. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is a calcium channel blocker.

26. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is an ACE inhibitor.

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27. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is a platelet inhibitor.

28. The method of Claim 17 in which the agent is a thrombosis inhibitor.

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29. The method of Claim 17 in which the surgery is cardiac-related surgery.

30. The method of Claim 17 in which the surgery is non-cardiac-related surgery.

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31. The method of Claim 17 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.

32. The method of Claim 17 in which the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.

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33. A method for preventing angina in a patient following surgery, said method comprising the step of: administering to said patient a therapeutic amount of a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent after surgery, wherein said patient did not receive the pharmacologic cardiovascular agent prior to surgery for treatment of a preexisting cardiovascular condition; thereby preventing angina in the patient.

34. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is administered after surgery until hospital discharge.

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35. The method of Claim 34 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for at least three days.

36. The method of claim 34 in which the agent is administered daily after surgery for up to seven days.

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37. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is a β_1 -adrenergic selective blocking agent.

38. The method of Claim 37 in which the agent is atenolol.

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39. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is an $\alpha-2$ agonist.

40. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is a nitrate.

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41. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is a calcium channel blocker.

42. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is an ACE inhibitor.

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43. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is a platelet inhibitor.

44. The method of Claim 33 in which the agent is a thrombosis inhibitor.

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45. The method of Claim 33 in which the surgery is cardiac-related surgery.

46. The method of Claim 33 in which the surgery is non-cardiac-related surgery.

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47. The method of Claim 33 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.

48. The method of Claim 33 in which the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.--

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